

OGC Has Reviewed

27 July 1953

Memorandum for: The Director of Central Intelligence

Subject: S. J. Res. 96

1. On 3 July Senator Wiley wrote the Director requesting CIA comments on S. J. Res. 96, a Joint Resolution to strengthen the foreign relations of the United States by establishing a Commission on International Telecommunications. This Resolution was reported out of Committee by Senator Hickenlooper on 18 July. (Copy attached at Tab A). The Resolution establishes a Commission, which is to be composed of 5 members appointed by the President, 2 members by the President of the Senate, and 2 members by the Speaker of the House. The Commission is directed to study the subject of international telecommunications and recommend measures which will encourage the effective use of this medium in fostering cooperation and mutual understanding among the free nations of the world. Senate Report 602, which accompanies the Resolution, is attached at Tab B.

2. While the general field of telecommunications is to be covered by the Commission, particular emphasis is to be laid on television. The report points out that the USSR has already established uniform telecasting standards among the countries of the Soviet bloc and is reported to be planning the installation of transmitters capable of delivering television signals to many free nations.

3. When S. J. Res. 96 was debated on the Floor, objection was raised by Senator Johnson (D., Colo.) on the basis that many of the matters which the Commission was to study come within the jurisdiction of the Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee which is charged with jurisdiction over communications matters. He therefore offered a series of amendments which would limit the Resolution to those matters which come within the jurisdiction of the Foreign Relations Committee. As a result, Section 9 of S. J. Res. 96 has been revised to read as follows:

"The Commission is directed to examine, study, and report on the objectives, operations, and effectiveness of our information programs with respect to the prompt development of techniques, methods, and programs for greatly expanded and far more effective operations in this vital area of foreign policy through the use of foreign telecommunications."

4. The title of the Commission has been watered down to read: "Commission on Governmental Use of International Telecommunications".

5. In this limited form the Resolution passed the Senate on 23 July. It is of interest to note that experts and consultants employed by the Commission may be paid at a rate not to exceed \$75.00 per diem, plus travel, subsistence and other necessary expenses incurred. I believe this is the highest per diem rate that has yet been allowed.

6. The proposal for this Commission grows out of recommendations contained in Senate Report 406 on Overseas Information Programs of the United States. There are also some recommendations concerning the use of this media in the report of the Jackson Committee. This Resolution has been considered by several offices in CIA, and a proposed reply for the DCI's signature (attached at Tab C) was prepared by AD/OSI and was concurred in by AD/Commo and Chief/PP. This proposed reply cites a report of March 1951 by the President's Communications Policy Board, and studies and progress being made at the present time in this field under the direction of the NSC. The proposed reply then points out that the creation of another commission to deal with a specific portion of the total telecommunications problem would impinge upon the responsibilities of certain Government agencies and might retard, rather than accelerate, the exploitation of new techniques of international telecommunications.

7. It is felt that this proposed reply should not be sent to Senator Wiley, in view of the fact that it refers to certain highly classified reports and studies of the Executive Branch, of which the Committee may not be presently aware and which should not be brought to their attention by CIA. Furthermore, in view of the fact that the Resolution has now passed the Senate, a more generalized

reply should be sent to Senator Wiley. It is therefore recommended that the attached letter at Tab D be dispatched by the Director.

8. In view of the fact that senior CIA officials feel that the Commission proposed in S. J. Res. 96 will tend to confuse the issue rather than aid in present activities, it is recommended that the Director or his designees make these views known to General Cutler and Mr. C. D. Jackson, of the White House staff, and that the Legislative Counsel be authorized to bring these views informally to the attention of Mr. Bryce Harlow, who handles matters pertaining to the House on General Persons' staff at the White House. In this manner the White House can be apprised of our views and may also take the necessary steps to sidetrack this Resolution in the House without reference to CIA opposition.

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Legislative Counsel

OGC:WLP/blc  
Orig. - Add.  
1 - Inspector General  
1 - DD/I  
1 - Chief, PP  
1 - AD/SI  
1 - AD/Commo  
2 - Stayback